



FEMA

March 19, 2024

Dear Homeland Security Partners,

As we navigate the complexities of safeguarding our nation's security, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our State Administrative Agency, State Homeland Security Advisor, law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, and Urban Area Security Initiative partners for your invaluable contributions and steadfast commitment to enhancing our preparedness and response efforts. Your insights, expertise, and dedication have greatly shaped the FY 2024 DHS preparedness grant programs priorities and policies.

At Secretary Mayorkas's direction, FEMA recently hosted five listening sessions to hear your feedback. As a direct result of those engagements, the Secretary has made policy changes for the FY 2024 grant opportunities, including the Homeland Security Grant Program's (HSGP) National Priority Areas (NPA) and minimum spend requirements, and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA).

During our feedback sessions with you, we heard:

- Meeting the overall 30% minimum spend across all six National Priority Areas (NPAs) was not an obstacle.
- The 3% minimum spend requirements for individual NPAs hinders your ability to address the homeland security priorities in your respective, local jurisdictions.
- The Election Security NPA does not typically fall under the purview of those applying for HSGP funding and is especially difficult to meet due to the requirement for a nexus of terrorism.
- It can be difficult to identify appropriate projects to fund because the needs identified in the minimum spend requirements are already covered by other funding sources.
- You are generally satisfied with the NPAs but encourage DHS to provide as much lead time as possible for any future changes.
- Fire service representatives expressed it was difficult to work within the NPAs and recommend DHS include the word "response" within definitions to be more encompassing of the fire community.
- Meeting the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) current 35% minimum spend requirement is not overly burdensome for most states and territories but increasing the set aside further would make it difficult to meet.

As a result of these feedback sessions, the Secretary has made the following policy decisions related to the HSPG for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024:

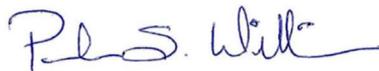
- **Retain** the overall minimum spend requirement of 30% across all six NPAs (consistent with FY 2024).

- **Retain** the 3% minimum spend for the Election Security NPA.
- **Remove** the minimum spends for the remaining five NPAs.
 - Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets and Crowded Places;
 - Enhancing Intelligence and Information Sharing and Analysis;
 - Combating Domestic Violent Extremism;
 - Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience; and
 - Enhancing Cybersecurity.
- **Retain** the 35% minimum spend requirement for LETPA.

DHS/FEMA want to recognize that including the 3% minimum spend for Election Security is not in line with your feedback. The Secretary concluded that this minimum spend is imperative to addressing the current threat environment. When DHS/FEMA consulted with experts across the federal government, it emerged that there are enduring concerns relative to the upcoming election cycles specific to both nation state actors, as well as domestic violent extremists (DVE) groups. Specifically, CISA and NSC cited the [Homeland Threat Assessment 2024 Report](#) (HTA 2024) that states in its executive summary: “We expect the 2024 election cycle will be a key event for possible violence and foreign influencing targeting our infrastructure, processes and personnel. Funding will be essential to enhancing security and fixing identified gaps in preparation for the next election cycle in 2026.”

The Secretary, FEMA Administrator, and I extend our heartfelt appreciation for your support and collaboration. Your engagement in shaping the FY 2024 preparedness grant programs underscored our shared commitment to safeguarding our communities and ensuring the resilience of our nation. Together, we stand prepared to address the challenges ahead and to embrace the opportunities for continued progress. Thank you for your dedication, partnership, and tireless efforts in advancing the mission of the Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,



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